

shown in FIGS. 6 and 7. During operation, the operating substance 15 is filled into the first space 9 of the tank housing 5 via the fill opening 3 and flows through the gaps 12 between the lamellae 11 into the second space 10. The operating substance is drawn off via a discharge opening 4 (see FIG. 5) from space 10 as required. An improved degree of deposition on the filter wall 8 is achieved with the S-shaped or Z-shaped cross-sectional form of the lamellae 11. This is so because the dirt particles can better separate and deposit on the lamellae 11 configured in such a way. --

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 13 to 15 are amended and now read as follows:

1. (Amended) An operating substance tank including an operating substance tank for a portable handheld work apparatus, the operating substance tank comprising:

a tank housing having a tank interior and including a first housing part; and, a second housing part connected to said first housing part and defining said tank interior conjointly therewith;

a filter wall for trapping contaminants contained in said operating substance and said filter wall being configured as one piece with one of said first and second housing parts;

said filter wall extending over the interior cross section of said tank so as to partition said tank housing into at least

first and second spaces;

15 said tank including a fill opening for filling said
operating substance into said first space and an outflow
connection through which said operating substance is drawn from
said second space; and,

20 said outflow connection being disposed in said second space
downstream of said filter wall so that said contaminants are
prevented by said filter wall from clogging said outflow
connection as said operating substance is drawn by said work
apparatus during operational use thereof.

4. (Amended) The tank of claim 2, each of said lamellae being
configured to be S-shaped when viewed in cross section.

6. (Amended) The tank of claim 1, wherein said first housing
part has a wall defining a plane extending into the interior
thereof; and, said filter wall is mounted in said plane.

13. (Amended) A work apparatus comprising:

an apparatus housing;

a tank for holding an operating substance and said tank
including a tank housing;

5 said tank housing having a tank interior and including a
first housing part; and, a second housing part connected to said
first housing part and defining said tank interior conjointly
therewith;


10 a filter wall for trapping contaminants contained in said
operating substance and said filter wall being configured as one

piece with one of said first and second housing parts;

said filter wall extending over the interior cross section of said tank so as to partition said tank housing into at least first and second spaces;

15 said tank including a fill opening for filling said operating substance into said first space and an outflow connection through which said operating substance is drawn from said second space;


20 said outflow connection being disposed in said second space downstream of said filter wall so that said contaminants are prevented by said filter wall from clogging said outflow connection; and,

 said second housing part being defined by said apparatus housing.

14. (Amended) The work apparatus of claim 13, wherein said apparatus housing is in the form of an attachment flange.

15. (Amended) The work apparatus of claim 14, wherein said work apparatus includes a work tool; said attachment flange having first and second ends; and, said attachment flange is connected to said substance tank at said first end and to said work tool at
5 said second end.

Please add claim 16 as follows:

 16. The tank of claim 2, said lamellae being configured to be Z-shaped when viewed in cross section.